

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA:JOZURHELLEN:AC

APPROVED BY EA:JOZURHELLEN

EA/J:WSHERMAN

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

ACDA - MR. VAN DOREN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 015370

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND NPT

1. MINISTER NISHIDA OF JAPANESE EMBASSY CALLED ON ZURHELLEN JANUARY 21 TO DISCUSS JAPANESE VIEW OF NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY. NISHIDA STATED FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA IS ACTING ON ASSUMPTION NPT WILL BE PRESENTED TO CURRENT DIET FOR RATIFICATION AND HAS ORDERED ACCELERATION JAPANESE - IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. IN ORDER TO CORRECT PREVIOUS MISINFORMATION THAT MIYAZAWA DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR NPT RATIFICATION AT THIS DIET SESSION, PRESS IN JAPAN HAS BEEN INFORMED AS ABOVE.

2. WHILE GOJ HAS HOPE THAT NPT MAY BE RATIFIED IN TIME TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE AT REVIEW CONFERENCE AS FULL PARTY, MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBILITY THIS WILL NOT BE SO. IN EVENT JAPAN CANNOT ATTEND AS PARTY TO TREATY, GOJ NEVERTHELESS "QUITE ANXIOUS" TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND AS OBSERVER WITH STATUS AS CLOSE TO THAT OF FULL PARTY AS POSSIBLE. I.E., WHILE REALIZING IT WOULD HAVE NO VOTE OR VOICE IN DECISIONS, JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND

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ALL SESSIONS INCLUDING COMMITTEES. GOJ HOPES USG WILL

MOVE IN THIRD SESSION OF NPT PREPCOM ALONG THESE LINES.

3. NISHIDA SAID GOJ VERY ANXIOUS TO KEEP ITS APPROACH
ABOUT OBSERVER STATUS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL. IF LEAK
OCCURS, SOME MAY INTERPRET THIS AS SIGN THAT GOJ HAS

GIVEN UP HOPE FOR TREATY RATIFICATION, WHICH NOT TRUE.
MOREOVER, THERE WOULD BE SOME IN JAPAN WHO WOULD ARGUE THAT
THERE WAS NO NEED TO RATIFY TREATY IF JAPAN OBTAINED
POSITION AS OBSERVER.

4. ZURHELLEN EXPRESSED THANKS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING
FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTENTIONS AND ASSURED NISHIDA
APPROACH WOULD BE KEPT FOR USG KNOWLEDGE ONLY. HE TOLD
NISHIDA THAT PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT CONSIDERABLE
SENTIMENT EXISTED FOR OBSERVER STATUS OF SOME KIND FOR
SIGNATORIES WHO HAVE NOT RATIFIED BUT DETAILS REMAIN TO
BE WORKED OUT IN PREPCOM AND ARE NOT, OF COURSE, SUBJECT
TO UNILATERAL USG DETERMINATION. US DELEGATION WILL
KEEP GOJ DESIRES IN MIND AND WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH
AMBASSADOR NISHIBORI IN GENEVA. KISSINGER

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